



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING DISTRICT OFFICE



STEVEN E. CHESTER  
DIRECTOR

August 5, 2008

CERTIFIED MAIL

Violation Notice

VN-003556

Mr. John Beatty III  
Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc.  
604 South Michigan Avenue  
P.O. Box 557  
Howell, Michigan 48843

Dear Mr. Beatty:

SUBJECT: NPDES Permit No. MI0058204, Consent Decree (CD), Case No. 03-1862-CE  
Diamond Chrome Plating Inc  
Reconnaissance Inspection

On July 31, 2008, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Bureau (WB) staff conducted an inspection of the facility located at 604 South Michigan Avenue, Howell, Michigan, to determine compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MI0058204 and Consent Decree, Case No. 03-1862-CE. Participants in the inspection were you, Mr. Jerry Chin, Mr. Tom Poplawski, Mr. John Warsop, Ms. Beth Gotthelf, and Ms. Gretchen McKernan. Based on the results of the inspection, the WB has reason to believe that Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. is not in compliance with their NPDES Permit and CD.

The following compliance issues were identified.

1. Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. has had three effluent violations for total cadmium in July 2008, as follows in Table 1:

**Table 1, Cadmium violations**

Violation Date	Total Cadmium, ug/l (Limit: 55ug/l)
07/02/08	90
07/12/08	130
07/17/08	61

Concentrations of total cadmium greater than 55 ug/l are a violation of Part I.A.1. of NPDES Permit No. MI0058204.

2. Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. is required in NPDES Permit No. MI0058204, Part II, Section C.6. - *Noncompliance Notification* to report: "all instances of noncompliance as follows:

**a) 24-hour reporting** - Any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment (including daily maximum discharge limitation exceedances) shall be reported, verbally, within 24-hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five (5) days.

**b) other reporting** - The permittee shall report, in writing, all other instances of noncompliance not described in a) above at the time monitoring reports are submitted..."

Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. failed to properly notify the WB of the July 2, 2008, noncompliance with its effluent limit for total cadmium. This is a violation of your permit.

3. Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. has failed to submit a PMP for mercury in compliance with Part I, Section A.3. - *Pollutant Minimization Program for Total Mercury* of NPDES Permit No. MI0058204. The failure to comply with this requirement is a violation of your permit. It was discussed during the inspection that this PMP is being drafted and should be completed by **August 15, 2008**. Please submit this document by that date.
4. Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. has failed to properly implement its PMP for hexavalent chromium, cadmium, and zinc as required under Paragraph 5.4(a) of the CD. The approved PMP commits to source sampling and pollution prevention and reduction efforts on a continued basis. Diamond Chrome Plating Inc. has failed to sample sources as described in the PMP and take measures to reduce the pollutants in its storm water. The status and purpose of the PMP were discussed during the inspection.

It was decided that Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. would submit a request to amend its PMP to streamline its efforts while still providing data needed to assess its PMP efforts. Specific pollutants and areas of concern will be targeted based on the information gathered to date. We also request that any pollutant minimization activities conducted that were not described in the last PMP quarterly report be listed (by date of completion) with this submittal. It was also discussed that Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. may request that the PMP be deferred or eliminated in the long term if all storm water is being treated to meet water quality standards prior to discharge.

5. Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. has failed to obtain a certified operator as required under Part II.D.2. - *Operator Certification* of NPDES Permit No. MI0058204. The failure to comply with this requirement is a violation of your permit. It was discussed during the inspection that several staff members of Diamond Chrome Plating Inc. have the requisite experience, have obtained training materials, and will take the operator certification exams in November 2008. Please provide us with the status of operator certification by **December 15, 2008**. If Diamond Chrome Plating staff does not obtain the required certifications by that date, please obtain the oversight by certified operators in some other manner and inform us of your actions.

We briefly viewed the new storm water treatment system, including the ferrous sulfate feed, carbonized peat tanks, surge tank, interceptor tank, controls, and sampler. The storm water treatment system is now in use. Diamond Chrome Plating Inc. representatives indicated that recent discharges met effluent limitations. The 46,000 gallon surge tank is not yet operational, but is expected to be on line in two weeks. We commend Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. for its efforts on this important task.

Please provide a corrective action plan to the Lansing District Supervisor on or before **September 5, 2008**, addressing the areas of noncompliance identified above in items 1, 2, and 4. Please respond to items 3 and 5 by the dates requested above. It is the responsibility of Diamond Chrome Plating, Inc. to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure compliance with NPDES Permit No. MI0058204.

Nothing in this letter constitutes a release or waiver of liability for noncompliance with your NPDES permit, CD, or Part 31 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

If you have any questions regarding our findings, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Carla Davidson  
Environmental Quality Analyst  
Field Operations Division, Lansing District  
Water Bureau  
517-335-6106

cc: Mr. Tom Poplawski, DCP  
Ms. Beth Gotthelf, Butzel Long  
Ms. Gretchen McKernan, CRA